



Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development

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Message from the Mayor

In August, our city celebrated its 170th birthday. Looking back at our city's history, we can find many things that have changed. From its humble origins as a hamlet on the banks of Allen's Landing, Houston has grown to become our nation's fourth largest city.

However, some things have always remained the same. Houston has always been a transportation and commercial hub that reached out to all corners of the world, from the early days of the cotton export to today's multi-billion dollar economy that depends heavily on our international links.

I want to thank you for your support and feedback. Without you, Allen's Landing would have been just a footnote in our history and not its beginning.



Bill White

Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Director

Each month, we receive numerous messages of encouragement and support from the community:

"We have been able to secure a professional service contract with the Chinese government as a result of the efforts done during the Economic Development trip led by Mayor White to China. We would like to thank the Mayor, your staff and the City for providing assistance during the trip as well as for opening the door to companies like ours with opportunities in China."



Helen T. Chang

*Alejandro C. Giannotti, P.E.
Chairman & CEO, Bovay Engineers, Inc.*

We will continue to serve the community with great pride.
Thank you.

Helen T. Chang, Director

August 2006 Highlights

Houston Hosts Delegations from Hainan, Hangzhou

On August 11, Houston welcomed a delegation from Hainan, a resort island in the South China Sea. The delegation discussed how Hainan and Houston can partner to further the business interests of both. Delegates represented both Hainan's regional government and many of the most important industries in the region, and was led by Vice Mayor Fu Yizhi of Quionghai, Hainan.

Did You Know?

Hainan Island lies along the same latitude as Hawaii. The two islands are often compared because of their beautiful white sand beaches and lush green terrain.

As one of the most renewed and prosperous cities of China for much of the last 1,000 years, Hangzhou is also well-known for its beautiful natural scenery, with the West Lake as the most noteworthy location.

Source: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com>

This month, Houston also welcomed a delegation from Hangzhou,

capital of the Zhejiang province. The delegation, led by Vice Mayor Chen Zhonghua of Hangzhou, met with Councilmember Adrian Garcia on August 29 and discussed ways in which the two cities can further develop their relationship through cultural exchange in sports and fine arts, and through cooperation in education and tourism. – **By Sarah Clarke**



(From left to right) Director Helen T. Chang, Hangzhou Vice Mayor Chen Zhonghua, Councilmember Adrian Garcia and Director General of Hangzhou Municipal Sports Bureau Zhang Lianshui.

US-Mexico Border Energy Forum XIII

Houston-Tampico Sister City Association in conjunction with the US-Mexico Border Energy Forum XIII have made plans for a Houston delegation to attend the annual *Border Energy Forum* in Tampico,

Mexico. This announcement was made during a briefing meeting held at Rice University on August 15. Keynote speakers at the meeting included Soll Sussman, Ken Medlock, and Marco Bracamontes,

representatives from Border Energy, Baker Institute, and Houston-Tampico Sister City Association, Inc, respectively. The Forum unites leaders from government, business, and academia of both sides of the border to exchange information about energy and environmental issues. More than 250 participants are expected to contribute to this year's Forum. – **By Tiffany Ching**

Did You Know?

Border Energy Forum will be held on October 19-20 in Tampico, Mexico. The Forum has helped track developments affecting natural gas markets, sought more interconnections for electricity and natural gas, and found new partners for developing renewable resources, especially wind.

Source: www.glo.state.tx.us



(Left) Lucy Ortiz and (Right) Marco Bracamontes

Indonesians Celebrate 61 Years of Growth and Friendship

On August 17, a day of national significance for the millions of citizens of Indonesia and the expatriate Indonesians located in Houston, Indonesian Consulate General hosted a celebration of *Indonesian Independence Day* at the Westin Galleria Hotel, which drew attendance from the Houston Indonesian and Asian communities, Houston's consular corps, as well as Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Councilmember M.J. Khan.

Did You Know?

The *Day of Independence* celebrates the formal reading of the Indonesian Declaration of Independence, read officially at 10:00 AM on August 17, 1945.

Source: Wikipedia.org

According to Consul General Suryawinata, the watch-word for Indonesia, the world's third most populous democracy, is "development." The Consul General cited decades of strengthened democratic trends, improved economic

circumstances and growing ties to the United States and to Houston as evidence of the continued development of the country he has represented in Houston for almost two years. – **By Matthew Shailer**



(From left to right) Councilmember M.J. Khan, Mrs. Fanny Suryawinata, Consul General Benny Suryawinata, and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

Italian-American Organizations Honors Liberato, Flame Recipient

On August 26, Lynne Liberato received the annual *Rekindle the Flame Award* from Michelle Belco, president of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations of Greater Houston, before a crowd of over 200 guests at the Houston Club. "It is your Italian spirit of professional accomplishment and commitment to the community for which the board of directors of the Federation of Italian-American Organizations bestows this prestigious 2006 Italian flame award to you." Belco remarked as she handed the beautiful glass flame to Liberato,

Did You Know?

Lynne Liberato, appellate partner of Haynes and Boone, L.L.P., is the past president of the State Bar of Texas and former chief staff attorney for the First Court of Appeals Houston. As a volunteer, she was named the *United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast Woman of the Year in 2004*. She currently serves as chairman of the United Way Board of Directors and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Greater Houston Partnership.



Michelle Belco, left, presents Italian Flame to Lynne Liberato. Gala Chair Therese Pallis is looking on.

The evening included presentations of two scholarships from the Federation, a live auction with items ranging from the "Gone Fishing" guided fishing trip to a dinner party for eight at Damian's Cucina Italiana with the honoree, Lynne Liberato.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Federation of Italian-American Organizations

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce Gala

Drawing more than 450 guests, the seventh annual gala of the Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston showcased the progress the Chamber has made since 1999. President Somesh Singh was the Gala Chair for this remarkable event.

Asked to comment on the success of the Gala, the new President Subroto Mukerji said, "The Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) had another very successful year, capped off with our glittering gala at the Westin. The Chamber's continued contributions to promoting trade and commerce between

India and the U.S. were recognized as an effective way of bringing these two great democracies together."



Subroto Mukerji, president of IACCGH.

Did You Know?

Jay Aiyer announced the winners of the IACCGH awards: *Outstanding Community Service Award* recipient Krishna Vavilala, *Outstanding Entrepreneur Award* recipient Dinesh Shah and *Outstanding Young Entrepreneur Award* recipient Jaspreet (Rick) Pal.

Among the many distinguish guests were Mayor Bill White, Indian Ambassador Ronen Sen, Senator John Cornyn, and President of Shell Global Solutions (USA) Inc Paul Hamilton.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Jagdip Ahluwalia, executive director of IACCGH

Upcoming Major Event Spotlights

On September 6, The Greater Houston Partnership will host a luncheon at its board room sponsoring the Austrian Business Agency (ABA), a government operated consulting firm which advises investors on site selections and recruits companies interested in locating in Austria. Speaking at the event will be Hugh Ripps, director of global systems at Coca-Cola Company, and Heinz Seitinger, advisor to CEO for North America at ABA. For more information, contact 713-844-3636.

Austrian Business Agency Luncheon

Asia-Houston Leadership Awards Luncheon

Asia Houston Network will hold its 5th annual leadership awards luncheon on September 8 at the Doubletree Hotel. Proceeds will benefit the University of Houston, Houston Community College and the Asia Houston Network Internship program. For more information, contact 713-385-8123.

“Chandni Raat” or “Night of the Silver Moon” is the theme of the Indo-American Charity Foundation gala to be held on September 9 at the Hilton Americas Hotel.

Founded by first generation Indian immigrants, the Indo-American Charity Foundation aids underprivileged individuals within the Houston community. For more information, visit

www.iacfhouston.org

Indo-American Charity Foundation Gala

Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce Welcomes CEO of Petrobras from Brazil

The Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce will host their business luncheon on September 20 at the Petroleum Club. Jose Gabrielli, CEO of Petrobras, will speak on the petrochemical industry and his global oil company which is headquartered in Rio de Janeiro. If interested in this luncheon designed to forge ties between the

business communities of Brazil and the U.S., visit braziltexas.org

The second annual *A World of Friends Fighting AIDS* awards gala will be held at the InterContinental Hotel on September 27. Honorees at the dinner will be His Excellency Jean-David Levitte, French ambassador to the U.S., and two Houston physicians, Adnan Rios and Mark Kline. Honorary chairs of this event will be HSH Prince Albert of Monaco and Vivian Fernandez de Torrijos, first lady of Panama, who will attend with a delegation of medical professionals from that country. For more information, contact 713-523-5491.

A World of Friends Fighting AIDS Awards Gala Honors French Ambassador

International Houston: Opportunities and Resources

This issue, “International Houston: Opportunities and Resources” will continue to provide information on a wide variety of global opportunities as well as international community resources.

Nominations for the 2007 Exporter of the Year Awards

Deadline: September 30, 2006

Commercial News USA is now accepting nominations for the 2007 Exporter of the Year awards. The ThinkGlobal/ Commercial News USA Exporter of the Year awards are given to one U.S. company in each of 14 industry categories. An overall Exporter of the Year winner is also selected. For more information, contact 1-800-581-8533.

International Houston: Opportunities and Resources

International Sourcing Fair Trade Mission

Deadline: September 15, 2006

Join the City of Houston Mayor's Office, Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council, U.S. Department of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Argentine Chamber of Commerce, Texas A&M University and University of Houston International Trade Center on the 2006 International Sourcing Fair Trade Mission from September 24-29, 2006.

Organized by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce & Shanghai Municipal People's Government and supported by the Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation Bureau from more than 10 provinces and cities in China, the 2006 International Sourcing Fair has become one of the most influential sourcing fairs in China. Since 2002, more than 300 international buyers and 20,000 qualified suppliers have participated in the conference. The 2006 International Sourcing Fair is the place to meet Chinese suppliers and buyers, and to make your entrance into China's growing market. For more information, contact 713-247-3595.

Bilingual Program Assistant Position

Deadline: Open until filled

AAFS, a nonprofit organization, is seeking a dependable, organized and detail oriented person for a full-time Program Assistant position. Bilingual (English-Vietnamese) required. The Program Assistant position will report to the Executive Director and Associate Director. Primary responsibilities include providing administrative support, assisting in the intake and screening process, making appointments/ appointment reminders, maintaining office data and billing, assisting in the management of personnel files, assisting in case management, contract compliance for grants, and other tasks as assigned. Qualified individuals must possess a minimum of a high school diploma/GED. Bachelor's degree is preferred. For more information, visit www.aafstexas.org or e-mail dionor@aafstexas.org.

Executive Assistant / Office Manager

Deadline: Open until filled

Society for the Performing Arts is looking for a full-time Executive Assistant/ Office Manager. Responsibilities include: Provide administrative support to the Executive Director and the Director of Development, and other department heads as necessary; Serve as initial contact to members of the general public; Coordinate interoffice communications and manage personnel within the organization; Maintain proper functioning of all office equipment and computer infrastructure. For more information, e-mail georgianayoung@spahouston.org

Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC)

MIADC/ Europe

The Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council for Europe (MIADC/ Europe) contains in its numbers leaders selected from a wide variety of cultural, business and educational backgrounds. The 31 members of the MIADC/ Europe make the region one of the MIADC's largest and most diverse. According to Cheryl May, chair of the MIADC/ Europe, Europe's members have risen to the challenge by initiating broad discourse with organizations and City leaders, working hard to share information germane to the European community. Members of MIADC/ Europe are currently involved in a number of projects of importance to Houston: researching a possible partnership with the city of Milan, Italy; coordinating a high-level visit from the Mayor of Tyumen later this year; supporting visits from the French Ambassador to the United States and a delegation from Houston's sister city Aberdeen.



*Cheryl D.
May*

Cheryl D. May, CPA controller for Maurice Pincoff's Company, Inc. and past chieftain of the Heather and Thistle Society, is elected chair of the MIADC/ Europe. May has a long list of professional and community involvements in Houston dating back to 1975, when she first moved to Houston from Minneapolis. May received her master's in accounting from the University of Houston Clear Lake, and received her certified public accountant's license shortly thereafter. As a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo speaker's committee, May's passion for promoting Houston to the world is evident in all that she does.



*Paul B.
Clemenceau*

Paul B. Clemenceau, partner of Mayer, Brown, Rowe and Maw L.L.P., is elected chair-elect of the MIADC/ Europe. Clemenceau received his law degree from Tulane University and is a member of both the State Bar of Texas and the Barreau de Paris. He is a past president and current director of the French American Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Texas-French Alliance for the Arts, the French American Foundation, and has served as executive committee members of the Houston International Festival Foundation and Houston World Affairs Council.



*James D.
Prappas*

James D. Prappas, partner of the Jackson Walker L.L.P and president of the Houston Grampian Association, is elected secretary of the MIADC/ Europe. Prappas holds his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center, and specializes in immigration and nationality law. The international aspects of Houston city life have always been of primary importance to Prappas who serves as a member of the board of directors for the British-American Business Council of Houston and a member of the advisory council of the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston.

Other MIADC/ Europe Council Members

Giorgio Borlenghi	Marian Kruzel	Joanna Palasota	Waldemar Priebe
Martin Burniston	Algirdas J. Krygeris	Olia Holowka Palmer	Patsy Akers Rhymes
Melvyn Douglass	Henri Lenaerts	Joan Patrick	Effie Rosene
Lori Gallagher	Sergei Lomako	Dennis Petito	Inger Russell
Lillian Jensen	Jean-Pierre Muller	Andrew Pidgirsky	Patrick Sharkey
Hans Knickrehm	Marie-Theres Odermatt	Elena Philips	Sophya Tabarovsky
Hans Werner Korten	Magne Ostby	Matthew Pilon	Luciano Topi

Sister City Spotlight – Taipei

This month the International Newsletter will continue to showcase each one of Houston's 16 sister cities around the globe with a closer look at each distinctive locale. This month we feature Taipei.

In 1961, Taipei was the first city to establish a sister city relationship with Houston and vice versa. Once a prehistoric lake, Taipei is now a modern city with a population of over 2.6 million. Originally the area was inhabited by plain-dwelling people. Approximately 300 years ago the first Chinese settlers arrived on the island, founding a community that flourished. In 1882, construction began on Taipei; originally the city was built as a square, surrounded by stone walls and a moat with five gates. The western area of Taipei retains the old architecture and customs.

Recently, Taipei has experienced a massive economic boom. It has many monorails and one of the best telecommunication systems in the world. Opened in 2004, the Taipei 101 is the tallest building in the world, as well as having the world's fastest double-deck elevators worth approximately \$2 million each.

Houston's business ties to Taiwan are strong. Seaborne trade with the island was valued at over \$1 billion in 2004. In 2005, air cargo between Houston and Taiwan was valued at almost \$56.0 million. There are 11 Houston companies with subsidiaries in Taiwan and 5 Taiwan-owned companies with offices in Houston.



Taipei 101, a 101-floor landmark skyscraper, is the tallest building in the world.



Chinese Pavilion

In 1976, the Houston Taipei Society, on behalf of the City of Houston, accepted the Chinese Pavilion situated in Hermann Park as the bicentennial gift from the City of Taipei. In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the sister city relationship, the Houston Taipei Society hosted a photographic exhibition titled *Images of Taiwan* in 2001. Last year, they hosted a *Taiwanese Folk Art Exhibition* in the Houston Central Library to celebrate the *Taiwanese American Heritage* week. Items on display included handicrafts, puppetry and opera costumes, as well as traditional aboriginal attire. The art and artifacts reflected a rich culture that is infused in the artistic creativity of modern Taipei.

For more information about the sister city association and their activities, contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at 713-227-3395 or protocol@ghcvb.org.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Millie Canter and Alma Maldonado, Houston International Protocol Alliance.

Meet the Consular Corps in Houston - Ecuador

This month we go to a nation of variety and contrast, both in terms of geographical and cultural features, and with respect to economic activity to speak with the Honorable Guillermo W. Alvarez, Ecuadorian Consul General in Houston, to discuss everything from energy to medical science cooperation.



Consul General
Guillermo W.
Alvarez

From the mountain chain with the world's highest average elevation, to the beginnings of the world's largest rainforest and on to the islands where Darwin first perceived the theory of evolution, Ecuador utilizes its inherent diversity and a wealth of resources that are both natural and cultural to reach out to partners around the globe.

Based in Houston and serving nine states (Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee), the Consulate General of Ecuador in Houston works to maximize the positive aspects of the partnership between Ecuador and the United States, and between Ecuador and Houston. Ecuadorian Consul General Guillermo W. Alvarez is a recent arrival to Houston and yet has much acquaintance with the many ways in which Ecuador and Houston are linked.

Prior to becoming consul general, he worked with the Ministry of Foreign Relations as a consultant to the vice president of Ecuador, and, in 2005, Consul General Alvarez served as director of the Ecuadorian Institute of International Cooperation. He cites a long history of exchanges between Ecuador and Houston, particularly in terms of trade, education and culture. Ecuador is one of South America's largest oil producing nations and is estimated to hold the third largest reserves of oil on the continent after Venezuela and Brazil. More than one half of Ecuador's oil exports are shipped to the United States, and of particular interest to Houston is the Gulf of Guayaquil's Amistad

field, one of the prime areas in Ecuador for the exploration of natural gas. Several leading Houston companies are invested in further exploration in this field.



Map of Ecuador

Consul General Alvarez is optimistic regarding the possibility for more partnerships with Houston, especially those in the medical and educational fields. A physician by training, Consul General Alvarez is working to connect hospitals in Houston's world-renowned Texas Medical Center with Ecuadorian counterparts. More recently, the Consul General was seeking to share Ecuadorian literature and writing with local universities as part of fostering educational dialogue and increased cultural awareness. As the Consul General describes, "there are innumerable ways in which the comprehensive partnership between Ecuador and Houston can be abetted," and, as he sees it, there are nothing but opportunities for advancement.

– By Matthew Shailer

International Hub: Society for the Performing Arts

Forty years ago, a crown jewel in Houston's art community, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) was born of Houston's need to fill Jones Hall with performances. Today, SPA is the largest nonprofit presenting organization of its kind in the entire Southwest region of the U.S., and has sponsored more than 700 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events.

The primary purpose of the SPA is the presentation of internationally-acclaimed artists and attractions from the entire spectrum of the performing arts—performances which, in many instances, would not otherwise appear in Houston because of the magnitude of financial undertaking or the risk of financial loss to smaller presenting groups or commercial promoters.



*Georgiana
Coronado Young*

"We are thrilled to celebrate our 40th anniversary with all of Houston," says SPA Executive Director Georgiana Young. "Our 2006-07 season is truly a reflection of the world-class artists SPA has been presenting over the years. From the return of violinist Midori to the debut performance of Mexico's Tania Perez-Salas Compania de Danza—it is quintessential SPA, exciting, eclectic and definitely fun."

Global in scope, SPA's UBS International Series focuses on three exceptional organizations who will entertain in the 2006-2007 season. A creative force in the world of dance, the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company has showcased the Philippine culture since 1957, and was the first Filipino group to perform on Broadway and at New York's Lincoln Center. Celebrating the rich history and culture of Eastern Europe is the 90-member Hungarian State Folk Ensemble. Returning by popular demand is the

KODO, the Drummers of Japan, an energetic group of taiko drummers.

Since its inception, SPA's stated mission is the belief that the arts are the measure of a civilized society, and thus has included educational programs in its regular season schedule. Master classes, lectures and demonstrations are held in local high schools, colleges and community centers. Corporations such as ConocoPhillips and Time Warner Cable have partnered with SPA in these educational endeavors. Cultural exchanges are also an important component of the SPA's mission. According to Young, "I traveled to China on the Mayor's recent delegation visit in July, and one of our goals is to bring the National Ballet of China to Houston to perform in Jones Hall. It can take years to arrange a cultural exchange between two cities, especially when dealing with major companies or organizations."

Yet, the City was supportive of this interchange. "It was significant that the delegation was able to meet with the Minister of Culture in Beijing because his endorsement of the exchange is critical to making it possible. The most fascinating aspect of cultural exchange is that art transcends political boundaries and language barriers. Culture speaks a universal language!" – **By MaryJane Wakefield**

Did You Know?

Houston philanthropist Jesse T. Jones established the Houston Endowment to fill Houston's need for a first class performance hall. Jones' nephew, John T. Jones, opened Jones Hall in 1966 as a new opera hall built to house the Houston Symphony and the Houston Grand Opera. However, John T. Jones realized that even with a full symphony and opera schedule there would be many nights when Jones Hall would be available for other performances. Hence, SPA was founded to ensure that Jones Hall would be filled with audiences all year long.

Connections Across the Globe: Houston Airport System

The fourth largest multi-airport system and number one U.S. airport system, Houston Airport System (HAS) connects Houston across the globe. Starting this month, the International Newsletter will feature HAS and its new developments.

Mexico is already the top international trade partner of the energy capital of the world. Now, this Latin American country is also the most accessible destination from Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH). No other city in the United States offers more weekly flights or access to more destinations in Mexico than Houston. More than 1,100 flights per week offer access to 30 Mexican destinations from IAH. That's up 15% from just a year ago and 64% above the frequency average of Los Angeles' LAX – the airport with the second-largest number of weekly flights to Mexico.

Accounting for these significant increases are the city's all-inclusive air, sea, rail and road transportation network; its central location to the rest of the country and the world; and the exponential growth of passenger traffic at Houston's airports. "We're growing at a tremendous speed and will continue to do so," said Richard Vacar, director of the Houston Airport System. "Our market is strong, our airlines are increasing their frequencies and our travelers are enjoying the benefits."

Just halfway through the year, passenger traffic at Houston's airports is up by 2 million more passengers than in 2005. At this rate, another 4 million travelers will bring 2006's total traffic numbers for the year to an all time high – 52 million. Freight poundage is also up at the Houston Airport System. A large portion of

these travelers are Mexican nationals who have found in Houston a lucrative option for shopping, vacationing and doing business. The introduction of regional jets to the industry has also afforded travelers more frequent flights and more competitive rates for traveling to and from Houston. Air cargo trade between Houston and Mexico was valued at \$367.4 million in 2005. Main products moving via air

between Houston and Mexico include precious stones, metals, coins, pearls, electrical machinery, equipment and parts. Yet the market in Houston is anything but saturated. Asia and Latin America have found a way to cost-effectively converge their markets via Houston.



Mexico

Proof of this demand is the waiting list of carriers seeking to enter the city's aviation market. Air India, Virgin Nigeria, Emirates Airline, Qatar Airways, Korean Air and Asiana Airlines are a few on the list.

From a business perspective, Houston offers unrivaled access to one of the most important corporate markets in the world. Over 3,500 international businesses call Houston home; 600 of these are foreign-owned. In addition, 24 *Fortune 500* companies are headquartered within the city limits. With access to more than 76 international destinations, IAH is now the fourth-fastest growing airport in the world. As upgrades and developments at Bush Intercontinental Airport continue to flourish, access to and from Mexico, from Houston, will also continue to increase.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Houston Airport System.

The Global Bridge: Russian American Chamber for Trade and Industry

Each month the International Newsletter will feature a section "the Global Bridge" introducing the chambers of commerce in Houston dedicated to promoting Houston's international image.

The Russian American Chamber for Trade and Industry, Inc. was founded in Houston in 2003 to support and facilitate the business of U.S. companies in Russia, as well as the business of Russian commercial entities wishing to do business in the U.S. The Chamber's goals are to foster trade, promote cooperation, develop business opportunities, and help to identify or pursue solutions in the course of existing business. Serving as a liaison and a conduit to improve understanding between Russian and U.S. entities, the Chamber focuses primarily but not exclusively on the energy sector.



Igor Effimoff

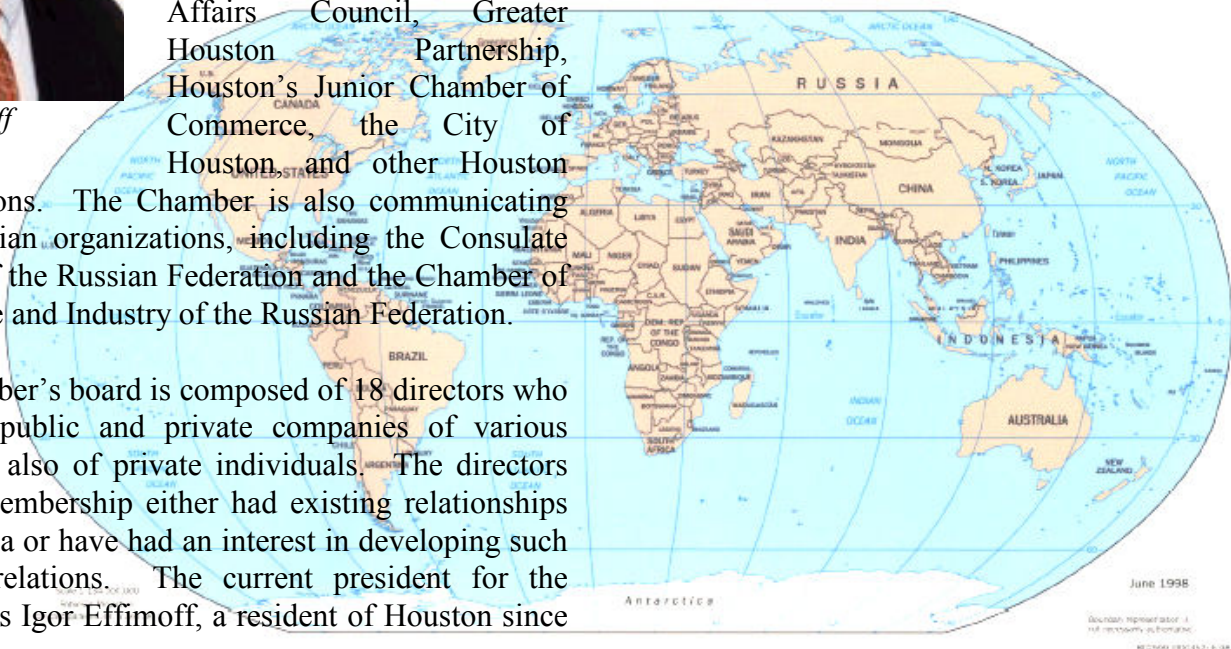
During the beginning phase of operation, the Chamber has participated in a number of Houston events pertaining to U.S.-Russia cooperation, and has been maintaining contacts with the Houston World Affairs Council, Greater Houston Partnership, Houston's Junior Chamber of Commerce, the City of Houston and other Houston organizations. The Chamber is also communicating with Russian organizations, including the Consulate General of the Russian Federation and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.

The Chamber's board is composed of 18 directors who represent public and private companies of various sizes, and also of private individuals. The directors and the membership either had existing relationships with Russia or have had an interest in developing such business relations. The current president for the Chamber is Igor Effimoff, a resident of Houston since

1974, who has been active in the upstream sector of the energy business for the past 35 years both in the U.S. and internationally. Although Igor Effimoff is of Russian heritage, his business association with Russia and the Former Soviet Union only started in the late 1980s and early 1990s when there was a rapprochement in relations between the U.S. and Russia. For more information, visit <http://www.americanrussianchamber.org> – **By the Russian American Chamber for Trade and Industry**

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Russian American Chamber for Trade and Industry.



International Frontier – Nene Foxhall

Every month we focus on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.



Nene Foxhall

“Best Airline Based In North America!”—the award bestowed this year once again for the third time in a row to Continental Airlines by Official Airline Guide (OAG).

Headquartered in Houston, this airline has its largest hub in terms of departures at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Handling the complex responsibilities for international governmental relations for Continental is Nene Foxhall, vice president of international and state affairs. “Continental has greatly expanded our international focus here. In 1996, we served 22 international destinations non-stop out of Houston. Today, we serve 64 destinations, with daily flights to the three other continents of Asia, Europe and South America,” says Foxhall.

Foxhall’s broad background aids her in handling these duties. A cum laude graduate of Texas Tech University in 1974, she also obtained a jurisprudence degree from the University of Houston School of Law, cum laude, in 1988. After graduating from law school, Foxhall joined the Dallas Morning News as a writer, and later moved to the Houston Chronicle where she wrote about political issues. Significantly, she served as the Chronicle’s first female political editor from 1981-1990.

Prior to joining Continental, she was an attorney associated with Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton for five years where

she counseled government entity clients on policy issues and matters of statutory compliance. In 1995, Foxhall joined Continental as vice president of state and civic affairs with responsibility for local and state governmental affairs, and last year, her duties were expanded to include the international realm. “Houston is a city with particularly strong international business and cultural ties, and Continental’s global flights make sure that commerce flows freely. Our airline, in partnership with Houston Airport System, constructed Terminal E to accommodate these international flights.”

A strong advocate of Houston’s business community, Foxhall says, “It is extremely helpful to have the support of Houston’s businesses for our international routes. Companies buy tickets for their employees to travel which gives us the opportunity to expand our hub and add new destinations.” Active in civic affairs, Foxhall serves on the boards of the North Houston Association, the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Houston Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, and the City of Houston South Post Oak Redevelopment Authority. Foxhall resides in Houston with her husband and travels often to address governmental affairs issues for Continental.

– By MaryJane Wakefield

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Fax: (713) 247-2100**

**Next Submission
Deadline:
September 20, 2006**

September – 2006 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact	
Sept. 5	10:00am	Bilateral Chamber of Commerce: Roundtable Discussion: The Global Challenge of Workforce Development in Emerging Middle East Markets	Venue:	GHP Contact: 713-880-8168
Sept. 6	12:15pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Austrian Business Agency Luncheon	Venue:	GHP Board Room Contact: 713-844-3636
Sept. 6	12:00pm	Houston Japan-America Society: Junior League Style Show and Luncheon	Venue:	Junior League Contact: 713-461-5304
Sept. 6	9:00am	Greater Houston Partnership: Business Outsourcing Opportunities for Service Industries in Ghana	Venue:	GHP Contact: 713-844-3636
Sept. 6	11:30am	Houston World Affairs Council: The Energy Outlook for Latin America	Venue:	Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept. 7	7:00pm	Czech Cultural Center: A Czech Concert	Venue:	Brno Gallery Contact: 713-528-2060
Sept. 8	11:30am-12:00pm	Asia Houston Network: 2006 International Leadership Awards Luncheon	Venue:	Doubletree Downtown Contact: 713-385-8123
Sept. 8	11:30am	Asia Houston Network: International Leadership Awards Luncheon	Venue:	Doubletree Downtown Contact: 713-385-8123
Sept. 9	6:30pm	Indo American Charity Foundation: Annual gala	Venue:	Hilton Americas Contact: 832-723-4019
Sept. 9	2:00pm	Museum of Fine Arts: 19th Century Persian Tiles & Paintings The Qajar Period	Venue:	Brown Auditorium Contact: Theater 713-439-0051
Sept. 9	6:00pm	Mexican Institute of Greater Houston: Gala de la Independencia	Venue:	Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-988-6699
Sept. 10	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Guizhou Delegation	Venue:	-- Contact: MOIAD
Sept. 12	11:30am	Houston World Affairs Council: Israel's Search for Security and a Lasting Peace	Venue:	Hyatt Regency Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept. 13	11:30am	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: Visually Driven for Success	Venue:	Westin Galleria Hotel Contact: 713-782-7222
Sept 13	6:00pm-7:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Winning the War, Winning the Peace, Defining Priorities for America in the Middle East	Venue:	The Junior League Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept. 15	11:30am	Greater Houston Partnership: International Business Distinguished Speaker Series, Offshoring Policy Update, the 2006 Elections and Beyond	Venue:	Federal Reserve Bank Contact: 713-844-3600

Sept. 15	11:30am	Houston World Affairs Council: Brazil, Democracy, Political Parties and Globalization	Venue: The Four Seasons Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept. 16	10:30am	US-China People's Friendship Association Houston Chapter: Chinese Medicine An Introduction	Venue: Houston Baptist University Contact: 713-502-6686
Sept. 16	6:00pm	Czech Cultural Center: 11th Anniversary of the Czech Cultural Center Gala 2006	Venue: Brno Gallery and Prague Hall Contact: 713-528-2060
Sept. 18	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Jinshan Delegation	Venue: -- Contact: MOIAD
Sept. 18	Noon-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Comerica Business Forum	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: 713-844-3600
Sept. 19	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: China National Packaging Corporation Delegation	Venue: -- Contact: MOIAD
Sept. 19	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Zibo Delegation	Venue: -- Contact: MOIAD
Sept. 19	8:00am	Greater Houston Partnership: Texas Bird Flu Forum	Venue: GHP Contact: 713-844-3694
Sept. 20	11:00am-1:30pm	Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce: luncheon featuring President of Petrobras	Venue: Petroleum Club of Houston Contact: 713-827-7226
Sept. 20	11:30am-1:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Diplomacy, Persuasion, Trust & Values	Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept. 20	6:00pm	Asia Society Texas: Tiger Ball 2007 "Incredible India"	Venue: Abraham's Oriental Rugs Contact: 713-439-0265
Sept. 23	11:00am	International Décor Gallery: Empowering Women's Event	Venue: International Décor Gallery Contact: 713-527-0523
Sept. 24-29	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: 2006 International Sourcing Fair Trade Mission 2006	Venue: Shanghai Contact: MOIAD
Sept. 25	11:30am	Houston World Affairs Council: A Conversation with Michael Deaver on Managing the Message	Venue: Hyatt Regency Hotel Contact: 713-522-7811
Sept. 26	6:00pm	University of Houston Asian American Studies Center: 10th Anniversary Gala "Education Unites All People"	Venue: UH Hilton Hotel Contact: 713-743-9863
Sept. 27-29	--	U.S. Commercial Service: "American Real Estate and Services"	Venue: Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center Contact: MOIAD

Sept. 27	10:00am-3:00pm	Houston Technology Center: HTC Technology Showcase	Venue:	Hyatt Regency Houston
			Contact:	832-476-9284
Sept 27	7:30pm	Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention: Awards Dinner and Gala	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-523-5491
Sept. 28	11:30am – 1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: “State of the State Address” featuring Governor Rick Perry	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-3682
Sept. 28-30	5:00pm-12:00am	The Center for Houston’s Future: Fall 2006 Leadership Forum Nominations	Venue:	Sugarland Marriott Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-9326
Sept. 29	--	City of Houston Mayor’s Office: Aberdeen delegation	Venue:	--
			Contact:	MOIAD
Sept. 29	6:30 pm	Asian American Bar Association: 2006 Gala & Silent Auction	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-221-2306
Late Sept	--	City of Houston Mayor’s Office: Shanghai Nanhui District Delegation	Venue:	--
			Contact:	MOIAD

We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.